



Fire Chief Steve Earley  
3085 St. Lawrence Ave  
Riverside CA 92504  
951-826-5321  
[www.riversideca.gov/fire](http://www.riversideca.gov/fire)



## Family Day

The RFD hosted Family Day on Sunday May 3 at the Training Facility. Over 300 people attended the event where on duty crews performed various demonstrations: rappelling, canine search, vehicle fire, auto extrication, roof ventilation, shelter deployment, and a structure fire scenario. In addition, stations were set up for bucket brigade, tours, and engine rides. RCFA Local 1067 provided chili “death” dogs, chips, and drinks for attendees. The event also included a vintage car and bike show. Attendees were encouraged to bring recyclables for our fundraising drive. Stephen Gross was on site to accept collections and offer an additional \$20 for each \$100 collected. Thanks to everyone’s generosity, \$300 was earned for the Botkin Fund.

Family Day appeared to be a huge hit. The department would like to thank the committee who put this event together: Renee Griffin, Kristin Johnson, Anna Hauldren, and Dave Campos. Additional thanks go to Brian Clark, Chris Boykin, Matt Stibal, and David Greyschock for their “grill skills”(serving over 450 hot dogs); Tyler Reynolds as MC/DJ; Rand Brinkman, David Castaneda, Ray Mendoza, Steve Jeremiah, Rich Bell, Paul Haney, Jeff DeLaurie, Greg Bluma, Bruce Harter, Jonathan Turley, Michelle Jackson, Tim Odebralski, Lisa Holloway, Steve Schlom, Steve Horton, Mike Koury, Tony Coletta, and the Explorers who helped out in setting up, doing demonstrations, and cleaning up.





***Email from Jim Weaver May 4, 2009:***

Hi Mike

Thanks so much for inviting us to the FD Family Day. We really enjoyed seeing and talking with with our many FD friends. Also liked the demonstrations that were put on and meeting the "fire dog." It was the first time Donna had toured the EOC and Training center, she was very impressed. She also liked "tootin" the horn and sounding the siren on our engine ride. Jim

---

***Email from Eric Botkin May 4, 2009:***

Hey Everyone! First, I just wanted to thank Oran Pentz for allowing me to put out a little something to all my department friends. I also just wanted to tell you all that as I get into the new chemo system, although it is a little different and quite difficult, I am glad that God has kept me here to give it another shot.

But most importantly I wanted to take a small moment and say thank you. For all of you that participated and worked to give Hallie and I such a great monetary fund is almost unbelievable for me. I struggle so much with being able to accept your help, but again want to say thanks. You know, on a little side note, I was struggling very hard with all the new body challenges that were created by the new IV chemo. I really wanted to find a way to make all this extra work become easier, but after two difficult chemo's I had not found much of anything to make me a little more happier. Well then I got a wonderful present from my brothers and sisters from the department. Amazing I thought. Here I had earned a significant financial aid which is very helpful for a host of things. But when I saw the writing on the check that said "stay strong", I started to cry (pretty retarded I know). It was so helpful in checking in with God again and not to miss Him to get through all this crud. I want to thank you all again for your prayers, your help, and your belief in me. Eric Botkin. Former Paramedic/Firefighter with the best department ever!

---

***Email from Santa Barbara Resident Michele Moeller Chandler sent Mon May 11 to BC Bob Bock:***

Subject: Tremendous Gratitude Dear Bob and all your valiant co-firemen (I wish we knew each and every one of their names too): I wish we knew more about all of you so that this thank-you note of sorts could be delivered in person. We were so pleased to get the note you left on the kitchen counter of our house so that we could at least attempt to express our gratitude for all you and your co-workers did to save our house at 1413 Paseo del Ocaso in Santa Barbara. (Ours was the taupe board-and-batten frame house with the stonework deck and crescent-shaped pool in the back.) We are heartbroken about the destruction in our beloved canyon, and deeply sorry for the tragedies suffered by so many of our neighbors. The fact that our house is still standing can only seem like a miracle to us, and that is totally due to your brave and persistent labors on our behalf. As we see the evidence left behind--pool sheds melted to the ground, seemingly indestructible railroad ties all twisted and uprooted--we can't imagine how you found the will to stay in harm's way for the sake of strangers. Our neighbor, who stayed behind and witnessed, let us know that you were steadfast in your vigilance about watching over our property so that no further damage occurred. Trees and flowers will grow again, dry wall can be repaired, carpet can be cleaned. But, I don't think we would have the strength to start all over again had we lost the house. We will rally behind our neighbors and hope they do. As we gather more details on the fate of others, we are humbled by our great good fortune in having you and your colleagues on our watch. We are ever grateful for your good deeds. All our best wishes, Michele and Chip Chandler and Family



(cont)



***Email from Eric Botkin on Tues, May 12 to Deputy Chief Pentz:***

Before I start I just again wanted to thank Deputy Chief Oran Pentz for allowing me to send this out to everyone. I wanted again to thank all of you for the continued help for Hallie and I as this seems to continue to grow into bundles of "the unknown." Since I have nothing but time I was thinking about how I could "payback" or help out my extended family. Now I know this will sound stupid to some, but I never really had any fantastic industrial, electrical or other trade that was a cool experience. I am although knowledgeable in finance and insurance. Before I go on any further I just wanted those who think I am retarded or stupid just to read my statement before coming to their opinion. All I want to do is help. I am not interested in selling anybody anything I only want to educate people about what they currently have. I have seen people with crap before and I definitely don't want that for any of my department brothers or sisters. So I am throwing my helpful knowledge to you, anybody who would like me to look over their policy and give them the true story about their policy. So many people never read the fine print and or don't understand what it says. To those that are not interested, I have all the respect for you. Keep in mind I only want to make sure that everyone else is taken care of just as my family will be taken care. This is a one time event so please either like or hate me but please remember that I only want to give everyone a chance to make sure that what you have is what you believe you have. Again this is not for sales to you, just a way to make sure that the policy you have will work exactly like you already believe that it should work for you and your family. God Bless you all. Eric

---

***Email from Chris Delaval to Downtown Fire Station crew on May 31:***

Dear Captain Jeremiah and all the guys at Station One

Once again we would like to thank you all for a great dinner and evening spent with the crew of Station One. My family had the greatest time and will always remember their dinner and tour of your house. I must say that the firefighters at Station One do a tremendous job of representing our city. We were very impressed with how you operate your station and show it off to us. Of course the spaghetti was good too. It was a great opportunity to be able to spend some time in a firehouse and see how it runs. My boys will never forget it. We thank you for all that you do for the City of Riverside and us. Chris, Nicole, Marco, Dominic and Rocco Delaval



---

***Email from Martha Castro, Service Coordinator of Project Access on Mon, May 11 to Chief Earley:***

I wanted to thank you for coming out to the Project Access Health Fair at Breezewood Apartments on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Even with the heat, you came out to support our event and provided valuable information, resources and support to the community to over 100 residents. Thank you for making the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair at Breezewood Apartments a success. If you have any questions, please contact me at my contact information below.





(cont)

**Thank you letter from the Mayor's office to Deputy Chief Pentz on May 12:**

The Mayor received a letter from Sherman Hagen informing him of the extraordinary care and assistance the Mission Grove Fire Station Crew (Station #9) provided him recently at his home on Bert Road. In his letter, he commented on the crew's "...professionalism and knowledge in treating his leg injury..." The Mayor stated that this crew's performance exemplifies the type of service we can provide when we remain committed to the community.

**Thank You Note from Colleen Cunningham, Co Chair, Kids in the Kitchen to Deputy Chief Oran Pentz on April 9:**

On behalf of the Junior League of Riverside, Colleen thanked the department for providing a fire engine and crew at the Kids in the Kitchen event on March 28. The Junior League hosted almost 700 children and their families.

**Thank you note from Janice Richardson, Assistance League:**

She thanked the Riverside City Fire Department for our generous donation of a dinner for four and tour of a fire station as part of their recent silent auction on April 1. She said their fundraising event was very successful, thanks to the generosity of people like us. She said our department's contribution will help to ensure that we may continue to serve children and families in need.

**Growing Families**



John and Tricia Wescott – Baby boy, Casen Steven Wescott, born on April 29. He weighed 6 lbs 4 oz. All are doing fantastic

Former Public Education Specialist (now working with Public Works), Samantha Eshelman, gave birth to baby girl Dakota on May 16. Dakota weighed 6 lbs 6 oz and was 19" long. Congratulations to Sam and Dustin.

Margaret Albanese	6/17
Keith Anderson	6/20
Milton Caceres	6/16
Anthony Coletta	6/21
Nick Faraclas	6/8
David Gilstrap	6/29
Shawn Haney	6/23
Bruce Harter	6/17
Thomas Henritze	6/20
Michelle Jackson	6/23
Ryan Kaessner	6/16
Craig Kodat	6/8
Jeff Larson	6/14
Matt Mathis	6/12
Tracy McKibbon	6/26
Bill Milligan	6/29
Nick Navarro	6/16
Crispin Nunez	6/20
Raymond Orozco	6/19
Mike Reynaud	6/16
Dana Roa	6/11
Paul Seawright	6/1
Scott Semer	6/6
Jim Weber	6/13
Ralph Wilson	6/26

**June Birthdays**



## Men Who Cook



Interim Chief Steve Earley, Engineer Tim Odebralski, Dave Castaneda, Anna Hauldren, and Cathy Williams participated in the annual "Real Men Cook" fundraiser at the YWCA on May 16. Chief Earley staffed the Leadership Riverside booth; his group won an award for best booth. Tim Odebralski barbequed roast at the RCFA booth. Anna, Cathy, and many Explorers assisted Odie in setting up the booth and serving samples. David Castaneda volunteered to be auctioned off in the evening. The winning bid was \$275 for a date with David.



## Accomplishments

**6 practical:** David Juarez, Josh Lavin, and David Greyschok

**Promotion to Engineer (as of May 1):** Clinton Breads

**Newly appointed Fire Investigators (as of May 1):** FF Gary Giovannetti, FF Ray Mendoza, Eng Sean Smith, and FF/PM Shannon Smith

**Engine Certification:** Chris Stamper

**Optimist Club Award 2009:** Anthony Coletta was awarded the honor.

## In Memory...

**Retired Captain Carl Schroeder** passed away May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:05 pm. The Memorial Service was held on May 23 at the Grove Community Church at 1100. Division Chief Mike Esparza and retired RFD Captain/Dept Chaplain Steve Ballinger, and RFD members( present and retired,) attended along with RFD Honor Guard and apparatus. The Schroeder Family expressed great appreciation for the support of fire department members. If you were unable to attend the memorial service and would like to send a card to the family, the mailing address is: 11370 Churchill Drive, Riverside CA 92503

**Our condolences** go out to retired **Captain Tony Braun** for the **loss of his father, Warren "Willie" Braun**, who was a retired LAFD member. Willie Braun passed away unexpectedly on May 16. His memorial service was held on June 1 at the Los Angeles Fire Department Museum & Memorial.



## Welcome Back, Joe



The Arlington Fire Station Crew along with Interim Fire Chief Steve Earley and Deputy Chief Oran Pentz hosted a luncheon welcoming FF/PM Joe Reed back to duty after a year serving in Iraq and Afghanistan with the Navy reserves. Joe's wife also joined the celebration as the station "Mother's Flag" and Squad 2 decal were removed since Joe safely returned home. Welcome back, Joe.



---

## Norte Vista H.S.

Firefighter Dustin Fenzke. Demonstrates how to put on turnouts to students at Norte Vista High school. About 50 students took part in two class periods to learn about a job in the fire service. All crew members took part by talking about their positions on the fire truck. By the end of the talk, about a dozen students asked questions about a job in the fire service.



---

## Ed Teran Golf Tournament

The First Annual Ed Teran Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Mon, May 18 at Victoria Country Club. Eighty golfers participated in the fundraiser event that benefits the Arrowhead Burn Center and the annual Ed Teran Scholarship at St. John Bosco High School where Ed graduated. It is only fitting that the winning team consisted of St. John Bosco HS golf team members.





R: Riverside City FD donated its old heavy rescue unit to its sister City of Cuautla, Mexico. Riverside City made the presentation to Miguel Miller of Cuautla, Mexico

Below: John Peurifoy meets Randolph Mantooth at the EMD conference in Las Vegas



P  
H  
O  
T  
O  
  
A  
L  
B  
U  
M



L to R: Gary and Tim Vanderhorst at Ed Teran Golf Tournament; Mike Esparza and Valdez at Santa Barbara Fires; Peter and Romney at Health Fair; Samantha's daughter, Dakota

